

**The Triumph of God's Love:
The Persistence of God's Boundless Grace**

Ezekiel 16:44–63

Veritas Adult Community

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The Text

D. LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER: JERUSALEM'S DISQUALIFICATION FROM GRACE (16:44–52)

1. An Indicting Proverb (v. 44)

⁴⁴Look! Everyone who speaks in proverbs will apply this proverb to you; “Like mother, like daughter.”

2. Jerusalem's Family Portrait (vv. 45–46)

⁴⁵You are your mother's daughter, she who treated her husband and her children with contempt. And you are your sisters' sister, who treated their husbands and their children with contempt. Your mother was Hittite, and your father Amorite. ⁴⁶Your big sister is Samaria, who sits with her daughters on your left, and your little sister, who sits on your right, is Sodom and her daughters.

3. Jerusalem's Shameful Personality (vv. 47–52)

⁴⁷Haven't you imitated their conduct and behaved according to their abominations? In no time at all you surpassed their corruption in all your conduct. ⁴⁸As I live—the declaration of the Lord YHWH —not even your sister Sodom and her daughters ever behaved the way you and your daughters have done! ⁴⁹Look! This was the crime of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters were proud, stuffed with food, and comfortably secure. But she offered no support for the poor and needy. ⁵⁰They were haughty, and behaved abominably before me, so I wiped them out, as you have observed. ⁵¹Nor has Samaria committed half your sins; you have made your abominations surpass theirs so that because of all the abominations that you have committed, you have made your sisters appear righteous. ⁵²Surely you are the one who must bear your disgrace for having intervened on behalf of your sister. Because your sins that you committed, were more abominable than theirs, they now appear more righteous than you! Shame on you! You will bear your disgrace, because you have made your sisters appear righteous.

E. THE DOUBLE RAY OF HOPE (16:53–63)

1. The Bad Good News: The Qualification for Grace (vv. 53–58)

⁵³I will restore their fortunes that is the fortunes of Sodom and her daughters, and the fortunes of Samaria and her daughters. But I will also restore your fortunes at the same time, ⁵⁴so that you may bear your disgrace, and feel ashamed because of all that you have done, and thereby offering them relief. ⁵⁵Thus your sister Sodom and her daughters will return to their former state, and Samaria and her daughters will return to their former state, and you and your daughters will return to your former state. ⁵⁶Was not Sodom your sister a by-word in your mouth when you were filled with pride, ⁵⁷before your wickedness was exposed? Like her, now you are the laughingstock of the women of Edom, and all those who surround her (including the women of Philistia), and who treat you with contempt from all sides. ⁵⁸Your lewdness and your abominations you must now bear yourself. —The declaration of YHWH.

1. The Bad Good News: The Triumph of Grace (vv. 59–63)

⁵⁹Truly, thus has the Lord YHWH declared; I will deal with you in accordance with your actions, you who have shown such contempt for the oath by violating the covenant. ⁶⁰But I myself will remember my covenant with you when you were young, and I will establish for you an eternal covenant. ⁶¹Then you will remember your conduct, and feel ashamed, when you receive your sisters who are both bigger and smaller than you. I will give them to you as daughters, even though they are not your covenant partners. ⁶²Then I myself will establish my covenant with you, and you will know that I am YHWH, ⁶³in order that you may remember and be ashamed, and that your opening of the mouth never happen again because of your disgrace, once I have purified you of all that you have done. The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

Exposition

Introduction

“Mirror, Mirror, on the wall, who’s the ugliest of them all?”

1. Like Mother, Like Daughter: Jerusalem’s Disqualification from Grace (16:44–52)

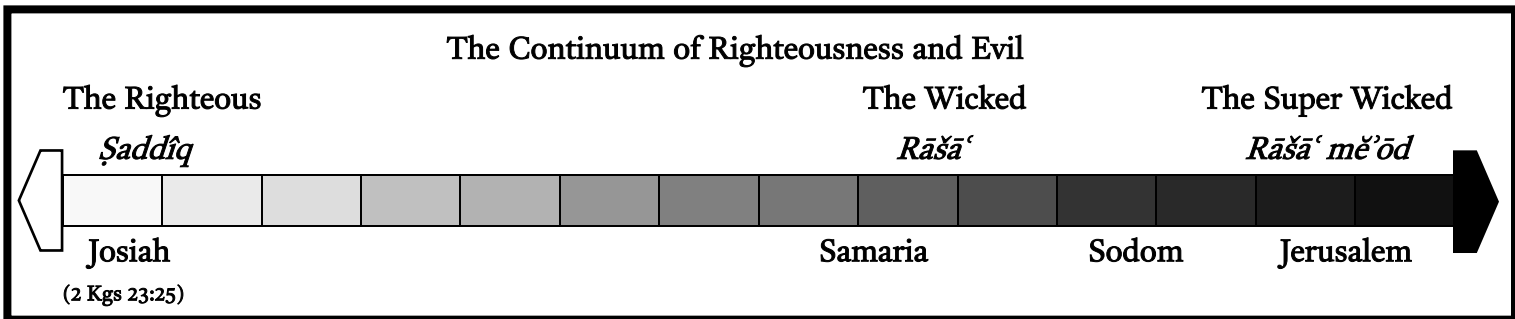
a. The Indicting Proverb (vv. 44–46): “Like mother, like daughter.”

“The apple does not fall far from the tree.”

b. Jerusalem’s Family Picture (vv. 45–46).

How do Samaria and Sodom fit this picture?

c. Jerusalem’s Shameful Personality (vv. 47–52).



2. The Double Ray of Hope (16:53–63)

a. The Bad Good News: The Qualification of Grace (vv. 53–58).

b. The Good Good News: The Triumph of Grace (16:59–63).

(1) The Lord’s Gracious Actions

(a) He will remember his covenant that he made with her when she was young.

(b) He will establish (*hēqîm*) an eternal covenant with Jerusalem.

(2) The Effects on Jerusalem

(a) Jerusalem’s memory will be quickened.

(b) Jerusalem will feel deeply ashamed.

(3) Jerusalem will acknowledge YHWH.

Application

1. Jerusalem is a figure of all humanity in its natural state.
2. The test of our spiritual parentage is not our confession but our life.
3. The constancy of God is our only hope.
4. The biblical perspective on guilt and shame.